

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY NAMES VETERAN EDUCATOR TO HEAD DPI

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today named Janice O. Davis, Ph.D., as Interim Officer for the Department of Public Instruction. In this role, she will serve in an acting capacity fulfilling the duties of the State School Superintendent. Davis is the current Deputy State Superintendent, a position she has held since 2003.

“Janice has more than three decades of experience working in our public schools,” said Easley. “She has worked closely with Superintendents Ward and Willoughby. She knows the agency and the important issues facing K-12 education in our state, and she will ensure that DPI continues to meet the needs of our public school children during this time of transition.”

Davis will replace Superintendent Tricia Willoughby, who was appointed by Easley in September 2004 to complete the unexpired term of Superintendent Mike Ward.

“I want to publicly thank Tricia for her leadership at DPI,” said Easley. “She originally agreed to serve through November, but extended that time an additional six months because of her commitment and dedication to public education in North Carolina. I, and the people of this state, owe her a great debt of gratitude for the personal sacrifices she has made on our behalf.”

Davis earned her bachelor’s degree in science education, her master’s degree in education and her doctorate’s degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She worked as an educator in the public schools from 1971-1987 before becoming a public school administrator in the Durham County Schools. She also served from 1990-2000 as an administrator in the Granville County Schools, including six years as the district’s superintendent. She returned to the Durham County Schools in 2000 and most recently joined the Department of Public Instruction as Deputy State Superintendent in 2003.

Davis resides in Oxford with her husband Jim. She has three daughters.

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